

C.O.C.A. TIMES

COIN OPERATED COLLECTOR'S ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 19

ISSUE 3

Nov 2013

\$14.95



10th ANNUAL NATIONAL C.O.C.A. CONVENTION BOSTON, MASS

Hosted by

*Arnold and Sandra Chase
Mike and Carol Galvin*

*Ken and Sandy Goldman
Julius and Patty Sciarra*

MORPHY

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SOLD \$36,000



SOLD \$114,000



SOLD \$66,000



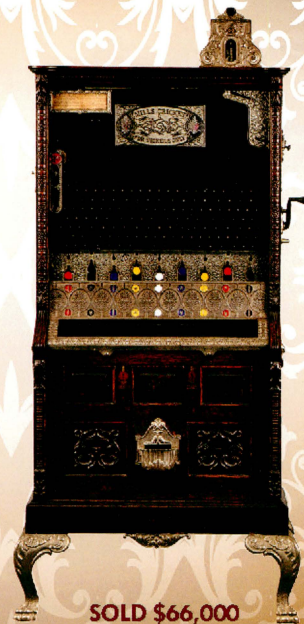
SOLD \$12,000



SOLD \$10,800



SOLD \$15,000



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SOLD \$31,200



SOLD \$32,400



SOLD \$16,800



SOLD \$19,200

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**THE COIN-OP COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION
ANNOUNCES ITS FALL 2013 MEETING**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2013

HILTON GARDEN INN, ST. CHARLES ILL.

5:30 p.m. Social - Cash Bar

6:00 p.m. - Dinner - \$15.00

Menu - Salad, Chicken Dijon, Garlic Mashed Potatoes,
Green Beans & Carrots, assorted Cakes & Pies

**Dinner Reservations due to Cindy Champer by
Thursday, November 7:**

Cindy Champer - 419/350-0477

or CindyChamper@aol.com

6:45 p.m. - Business meeting - President Doug Cain

- Election of Officers

- COCA Hall of Fame Award Presentation

7:10 p.m. - Featured Speaker: Dave Burritt - "How to
Spot Reproduction Slot Machines"

C.O.C.A. TIMES

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Phone: (262) 242-3131 OR E-mail: Bedvibr8or@aol.com

Message from Our President....

Hello again! Thanks to everyone that helped to make our 2013 C.O.C.A. Convention, held this past August in Boston, Mass, a huge success. And a special thanks to Marsha Blau, our convention chair, for all of her hard work in researching, planning, contracting, and coordinating the events to ensure a successful convention. Her year-round effort and attention to details have made this annual event special to all who attend. This was C.O.C.A.'s tenth annual convention, and with almost 100 members in attendance, this event continues to draw members from across the country, as well as from overseas, to get together for a weekend of touring fabulous collections, building and renewing friendships with fellow collectors, and getting to know more about other members and what they collect. Plans are underway for our 2014 convention to be held in the Boca Raton/Fort Lauderdale area of Florida in the fall of next year. More information and dates will be coming out soon, so watch for future announcements as plans are finalized.

If you were unable to attend our April meeting and missed the presentation by John Papa on "Originals, Repros and Fakes. How can we tell and why we care.", or were there and would like to see it again, John has produced a video of the presentation. A link to the video can be found on the 'Articles' page of our website, www.coinopclub.org. Thanks to John for producing this great video, which is loaded with valuable information aimed at helping members properly identify the authenticity of all parts of coin-op machines. John also has a YouTube channel under his business name, National Jukebox Exchange, with sever-

al interesting and informative videos that deserve a look.

Several of our members have also posted YouTube videos related to our hobby, so don't forget to look there when searching for information. To all of our members, if you have posted coin-op related videos on YouTube and would like to link them on our Member Resources page, please submit a request using the 'Contact Us' form on our website, www.coinclub.org. We are always looking for quality content to keep the site fresh and relevant, so if you have something to share with your fellow collectors, we welcome the help.

Membership in COCA continues to grow at a pace averaging almost seven new members per month. As I look at our tracking information to determine how new members found out about the club, I see that our advertising in auction catalogs, antique & collecting periodicals, and antique shop guides is paying off. Many of our new members are also coming to the club through referrals by current members, so thanks for the help in promoting C.O.C.A. and keeping our hobby and club growing.

Our next meeting will be held Thursday, November 14, 2013, at The Hilton Garden Inn, St. Charles, IL. For dinner reservations, contact Cindy Champer at CindyChamper@aol.com or by phone at 419-350-0477. Please make reservations for dinner by November 7th so that we can get an accurate count to the hotel.

See you soon!
Doug Cain
COCA President
330.837.2265
president@coinopclub.org

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**DEADLINE FOR
NEXT ISSUE:
January 10, 2014**

10th Annual National Convention in Boston, Mass.

By Doug Cain



August is always a great time to visit New England, and this year was no exception as more than 95 members gathered in Boston, Massachusetts for COCA's tenth annual convention. What was started when a small group of COCA members organized the first convention in Cleveland, Ohio in 2004, is now a highly anticipated annual event for many of our members. While there were many familiar faces from past conventions in attendance, 20 members were attending the convention for their first time.

When the registration time scheduled for Thursday evening came, the lobby of the Crowne Plaza quickly filled with members eager to pick up their credentials and proceed to the rooms of several members who

brought items for room to room selling. A silent auction of a large collection of trade publications, flyers, magazines, and out of print books donated to COCA by Mel and Anne Getlan was also held with proceeds benefiting the club.

Unlike in previous years, this year's convention was expanded to include a full day of events on Friday. Buses were boarded Friday morning for a scenic ride to Hartford, Connecticut, ending at our first stop, lunch at Black Eyed Sally's, a local favorite BBQ restaurant in the downtown area. Following lunch and a short ride to the home of Arnold and Sandra Chase, we were ready to tour our first collection. The tour began with the entire group seated in the 103-seat theater for a short presenta-

tion by Arnold explaining how he began collecting coin operated and mechanical music machines. Following Arnold's remarks, the group was encouraged to enjoy all of the machines in this incredible collection, not just by viewing, but also playing these marvelous machines.

Music was non-stop in the two-story music room as Jack Breen assisted with demonstrating the wonderful collection of band organs, orchestrions, and mechanical music machines. A favorite of many in the group was the animated Decap Robot Organ which was played multiple times. The arcade collection featured machines from the cast iron era, including Mutoscopes and strength testers, a room of English arcade machines featuring several Working Models, and an extensive collection of mechanical and electro-mechanical arcade games dating from the 1920's to the end of the electro-mechanical era. All of the machines were lit and operational for our conventioners to enjoy, and enjoy they did as the sounds of pinballs and arcade games emanating from the huge arcade room were reminiscent of the bustling arcades of a bygone era. One machine that drew a lot of interest was the Mold-A-Rama, a 1960's coin operated machine that molds a souvenir plastic toy in seconds as you watch. Several members were seen carrying freshly molded rockets as they toured the collection.

A short ride to Bolton, Connecticut brought us to our dinner stop, Georgina's Restaurant and Banquet Hall, for a nice buffet dinner before the ride back to Natick. Friday was quite a first day, but it was just the beginning of a great convention.

Saturday morning began with a tour of the collection of Mike and Carol Galvin, a diverse collection wonderfully displayed throughout their home, featuring early floor model penny arcade machines, early gambling machines, vending, and service machines. The emphasis on figural cast iron was evident with excellent examples of early strength machines, such as a Howard Uncle Sam, a Mickey Finn, and a Tiger's Tail Puller, as well as several other figural items displayed on the walls. Along with the great arcade collection, there was also a wonderful collection of advertising filling every available space within their home. With salesman's samples, early tin litho and reverse painted glass signs featuring tobacco, beer, and whiskey, trade signs, and folk art pieces, as well as Boston related items, it was a fascinating collection that Mike and Carol have put together.

After viewing Mike and Carol's collection, it was time for lunch at Blue Ginger, Celebrity Chef Ming Tsai's award winning restaurant in nearby Wellesley, Massachusetts. Following the delicious buffet lunch, it

was on to the home of Ken and Sandy Goldman to view their wonderful collection of orchestrions, music boxes, automata, slot machines, and items related to the time of the orchestrions.

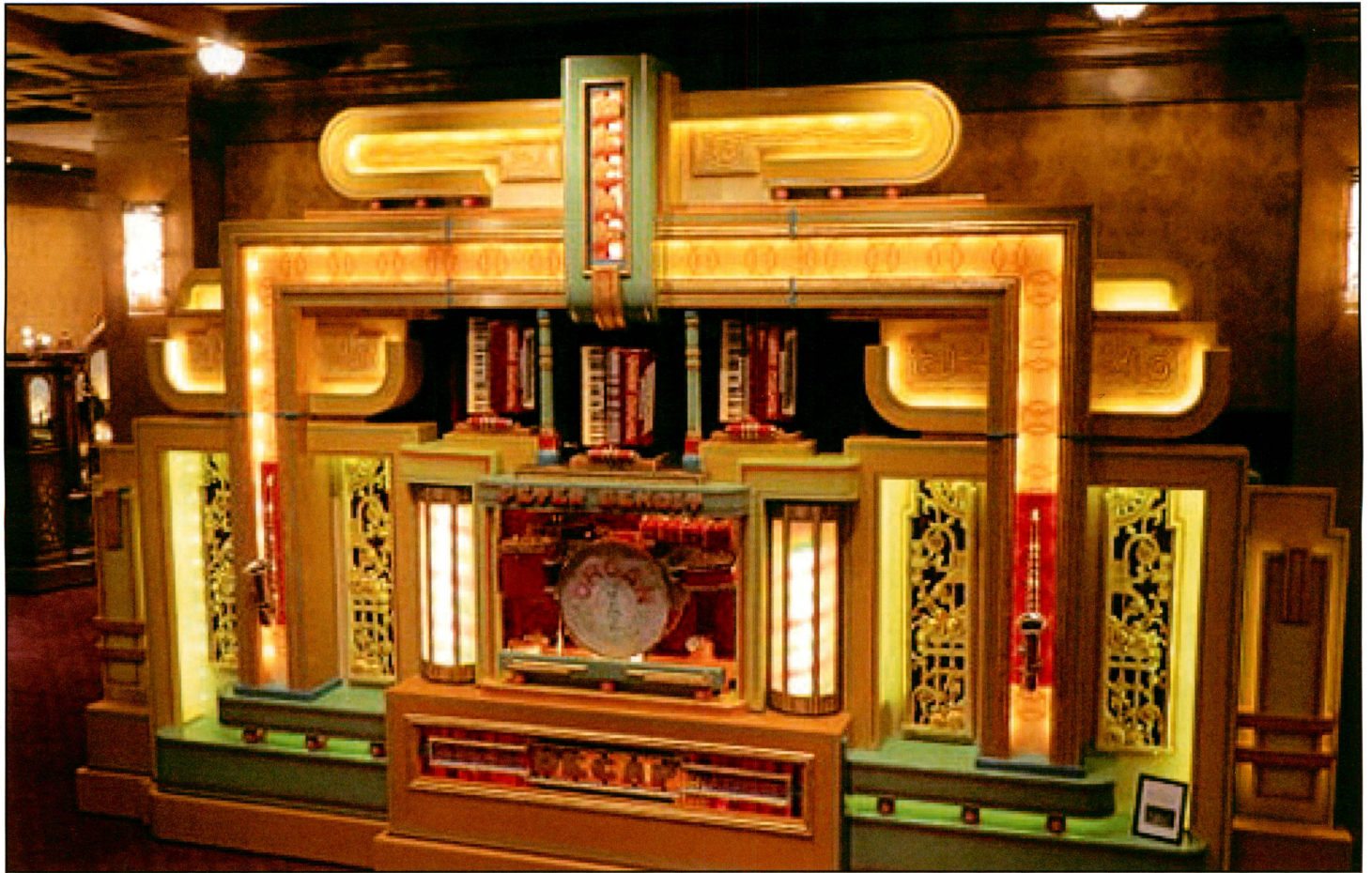
With the collection displayed in multiple rooms within their home, Ken, Sandy, and their son Alex, all participated in demonstrating the music machines, explaining their workings and histories, and answering questions. The large music room was the focal point for the collection with rare mechanical music machines lining the room, a loft dedicated to the gambling and arcade machines, as well as a group of carousel animals, and a fine collection of rare advertising signs and posters displayed on the walls. Ken's interesting stories of how he acquired many of the music machines provided insight into how he built this marvelous collection, and the chance to hear these rare machines play their beautiful music was priceless. A real treat was getting to watch the intricate movements of several automata in his world class collection as Ken narrated the stories of these rare mechanical marvels.

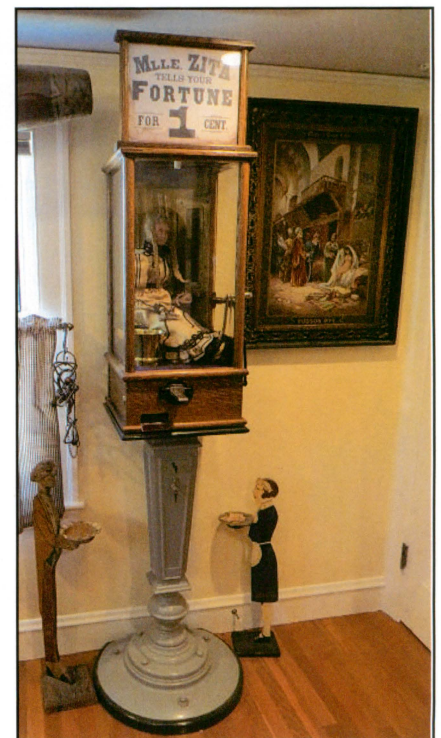
Then it was back to the hotel for a little rest and a quick change to get ready for the Saturday evening event, a Boston Harbor dinner cruise aboard the Spirit of Boston. The weather was perfect as we boarded for what was a really fun evening. With the buffet dinner served as soon as the boat left port, there was plenty of time following dinner to party on the dance floor, mingle with fellow conventioners, or just relax enjoying the beautiful lights of the Boston skyline.

Sunday brought the close of the convention, but not before a visit to the home of Julius and Patty Sciarra to view their fun collection of everything coin-op and more. With slot machines, trade stimulators, vending machines, arcade pieces, pinballs, and jukeboxes, there was plenty of coin-op to view. Their game room, with nice examples of a Basketball Champ, Evans Bowler, Williams Ten Pins, a full size Skee-ball machine, diggers and some modern pinball machines was definitely laid out with some fun evenings in mind. The collection also includes a full-size soda fountain and a great collection of soda fountain collectibles. Julius also set out some items for sale in the garage, and several members left with new treasures in hand.

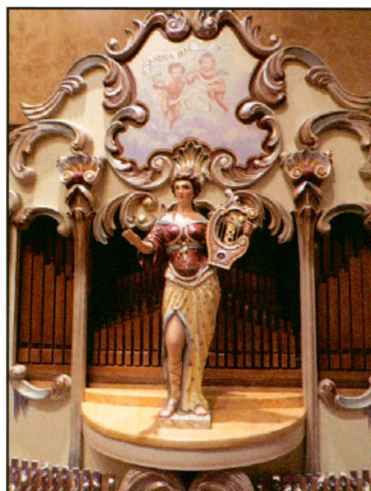
Now that the 10th annual COCA Convention is behind us, planning is underway for next year's convention in the Boca Raton/Fort Lauderdale area of Florida. Dates have not been set, and there are still a lot of details to be worked out, so watch for future announcements as plans are finalized. Hope to see you there!

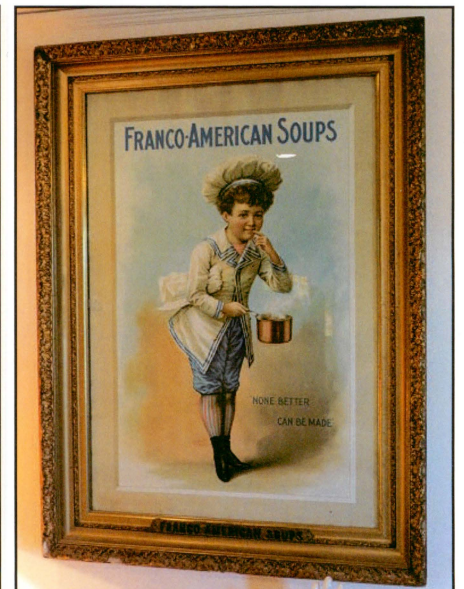
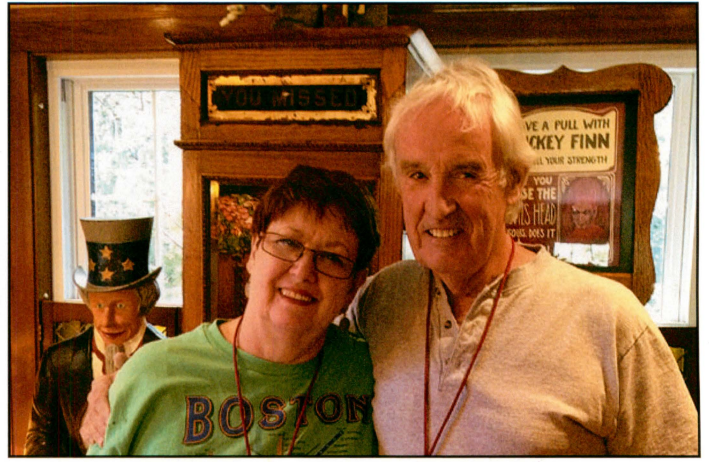
more photos on next page











A big Thank You to all of our hosts for their hospitality!

Chicago at It's Best!

Interesting Facts

by Herb Weinfeld

One of the best things about living in a large metropolitan area like Chicago is the almost endless opportunity to explore the history, architecture, neighborhoods, restaurants and everything else that make up the personality of this area.

Did you know that the sites of the Old Jennings and Pace factories are now parks, the Watling plant is a boarded up run down building in a rough neighborhood and the Mills Facility looks good and is in use as a very large storage and U-Haul Center? I've seen them all and have some interesting pictures that bring slot history up to date.

During one of my sojourns I came across the Theatre Historical Society of America. This is a group headquartered in the Chicago suburbs of Elmhurst that loves and appreciates old theatres. Similar to COCA, once a year they visit different cities and checkout vintage theatres. It is a very mature organization with an office, a full time office staff, archives and a regular publication. Many of the movie palaces built in the 1920's are done in the same art deco style we see in so many slots. This could be a sister organization to COCA.

If you're interested in learning more, they can be reached at:

*Theatre Historical Society of America
152 N. York Street, 2nd Floor
Elmhurst, IL 60126
historictheatres.org*

THE STAR

Sometimes It's a Matter of Luck

by Bill Howard

Just as in gambling, when it comes to coin-op collecting, we like to think that effort and expertise has something to do with the good fortune that comes with capturing a "great find". But sometimes, as in gambling, it's just a matter of pure luck. A great example of this was my acquisition of The Star, pictured and on page 108 of my book, Every Picture Tells a Story. I just happened to be standing at the right place at the right time.

The story begins back in those thrilling days of yesterday, those wild, early Atlantic City Antique Show days when friend Bernie Gold and I were mere fish in the ocean on Thursday morning, running around the old convention center looking for good stuff. Alan Pall was there. Ken Rubin was there. Rick Lee was there. And John T. Johnston was there running around - when was the last time anyone saw John T. running around anywhere! Yes, everyone was there. The name of the game was to grab, harpoon or shoot something good "on the floor" during Thursday, "set up day", before someone else got there first. In the midst of all this, civility sometimes suffered.

Well, there I was, amidst all this excitement when along came a stressed out dealer navigating his truck down an aisle and almost hitting me as he



came around the corner. Civility did prevail here and, instead of asking what the hell was wrong with him, I recovered in time to simply ask him if he had anything in his truck in the way of coin-op. My sometimes sarcastic partner, Bob "B.P." Peirce claims that I feigned excruciating pain in both my neck and right arm and started mumbling about a possible personal injury claim, but this is mere slander. Folks, I did no such thing! In any event, the frazzled dealer said he picked up some "contraption" on his way to the show as a throw-in

with other types of merchandise he was peddling. All he knew was that this "thing" was "old" and "dirty" and took "foreign" coins. He then asked me if I knew anything about the "thing" as he almost dropped it on me when it came to a thud on the concrete floor. He told me to "take a look" and scurried back into his truck to tend to other matters. I could not believe my eyes. The condition was all original. A tool specific to the machine was inside. Those "foreign" coins were actually the original "fortune tokens" the machine paid off when a player hit the eagle on the wheel and won big. Simply hitting one of the horseshoes paid out two nickels. I asked him what he wanted for this "thing" and he responded, "how does a couple hundred sound?"

The scene quickly switched to my booth where I hid my find in the event that the dealer re-evaluated the merits of the transaction and came looking for me. After a few hours I made a further move and hugged my treasure all the way to the trunk of my car.

When I got home and showed The Star to friend Mike Gorski, his first reaction was to ask me if I was selling it.

Yes, I know that early one wheel slots like The Star have suffered a little in value over the last few years, but virgin examples like this should never have trouble holding their value. The condition of this machine shows perfect aging and character: original finish, complete with a cigar drool stain or two; original cash box and token cap, complete


with original paint on some of the machine internal parts. The paper is all original, though it has some fading. It is obvious that this machine had only experienced being played or sitting.

The Star was manufactured by the D.N. Scholl Co. of Chicago, which referred to this machine in its ads as the "Great American Machine". An article about the machine appeared in the July/August, 1991, issue of Loose Change on page 9. and Marshall Fey featured a machine similar to mine in his book, Slot Machines, on page 98.

My example sits in our living room and serves as a good luck charm that evokes good memories and this story about the good old days in coin machine land.

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Consignments Wanted

For Our Fall 2013 Advertising, Toy & Doll Auction

Julia's recent toy, doll & advertising auction was a tremendous success, showing strong prices in nearly every category. The auction boasted a stellar offering that ranged from early American tin to clockwork automotive toys, fine French & German dolls, antique advertising, salesman samples, and much more. Despite changes to the market in recent years, fresh to the market, quality items that are conservatively estimated are still performing admirably. For over 40 years, Julia's has been at the forefront of the auction world, regularly handling quality estates and collections with aplomb. Our sterling reputation for honest and fair dealing, elegant presentation and the finest catalogs in the industry, combined with proven results including a great number of world auction records, and the most competitive commission rates in the industry means the greatest net return to you the consignor. We are now accepting quality consignment for our fall Toy & Doll auction. Whether you have one item or an entire collection, please contact us today for a free, no-obligation consultation. Be sure to ask about our special 0% seller's commission for expensive items.



Rock-Ola 1937 World Series
Baseball game (est. \$35-40,000)
SOLD \$42,550



Caille Double slot w/ music
(est. \$45-65,000)
SOLD \$80,500



Multiphone coin-
operated cylinder
phonograph
SOLD \$63,250



Encore coin-op
automated banjo
(est. \$50-75,000)
SOLD \$54,625



Regina upright auto disc
changer (est. \$23-25,000)
SOLD \$25,875



Regina coin-op music box w/
gum vendor (est. \$9-11,000)
SOLD \$9,775



Sweepstakes horse race
game (est. \$1,800-2,200)
SOLD \$4,600



Mills Brownie slot
(est. \$7-9,000)
SOLD \$9,775



Sun Mfg. Co. Bicycle trade
stimulator (est. \$5,500-6,500)
SOLD \$9,200



Mills perfume machine
(est. \$5-8,000)
SOLD \$9,200



Regina Hexaphone
coin-op
phonograph
SOLD \$8,850



Champion
gum vendor
SOLD \$4,600



Mills shock
machine
(est. \$16-18,000)
SOLD \$17,250



Yellow Kid
gum vendor
(est. \$5-10,000)
SOLD \$12,075



Lukat gambling machine
(est. \$15-20,000)
SOLD \$22,425



Bally Reliance dice game
(est. \$12-15,000)
SOLD \$16,100



Mills Baseball
slot machine
(est. \$5,500-7,500)
SOLD \$9,200

Selling? 0%

Seller's commission
on expensive items

Contact Andrew Truman or Julie Killam Tel: (207) 453-7125 Email: atd@jamesdjulia.com

Consultants & Catalogers: Jay Lowe, Rick Saxman, Dorothy McGonagle, Wes Pettingill, Ed Openshaw, Phelps Fullerton

Fairfield, Maine | Woburn, Massachusetts | www.jamesdjulia.com | Auctioneer: James D. Julia Lic#: ME:AR83

Automaton »Levitation«, c. 1910

Rare and spectacular musical automaton by Phalibois, in good working order. –
(Estimate: US\$ 30,000 – 58,000 / Euro 30.000 – 45.000)



American »De Kleist« Band Organ, c. 1900

Superb playing condition. –
(Estimate: US\$ 14,000 – 20,000 / Euro 11.000 – 15.000)



127th Specialty Auction

»Mechanical Music & Automata«

15/16 November 2013



Roulet et Decamps »Monkey Chef« Automaton, c. 1885

Rare monkey pastry chef automaton with kitten pie, from Decamps family collection. –
(Estimate: US\$ 10,000 – 15,000 / Euro 8.000 – 12.000)



Decamps »Bébé Frileux« Automaton, c. 1920

Romantic-themed musical automaton, from Decamps family collection. –
(Estimate: US\$ 5,000 – 8,000 / Euro 4.000 – 6.000)



Decamps »Dancing Dog«, c. 1910

Rare prototype model of a mechanical toy, from Decamps family archive. –
(Estimate: US\$ 2,000 – 3,000 / Euro 1.500 – 2.000)



»Bébé Eventail« Automaton by Lambert, c. 1890

– (Estimate: US\$ 5,000 – 7,000 / Euro 4.000 – 5.000)



Limonaire »Jazz Band Rex«, c. 1898

Orchestrion with 2 barrels, in good playing condition. – (Estimate: US\$ 9,000 – 12,000 / Euro 7.000 – 9.000)



»Decap« Dance Organ, c. 1950

Spectacular Belgian instrument with cardboard books. –
(Estimate: US\$ 25,000 – 45,000 / Euro 20.000 – 35.000)



Rare »Fortuna: Marvel« 26-inch Orchestral Disc Musical Box, c. 1890

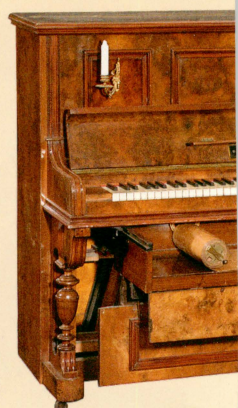
With fourteen-key organ, triangle and drum and 18 original discs. (Estimate: € 10.000 – 15.000 / US\$ 13.000 – 20.000)



Complete Music Notation Workshop Gallery Display, c. 1910
Entire antique outfit for production of piano rolls. – **Extremely rare!** –
(Estimate: US\$ 13,000 – 25,000 / Euro 10,000 – 20,000)



»Banjo Player« Musical Automaton
by Gustave Vichy, c. 1890
(Estimate: € 5,000 – 8,000 /
US\$ 6,500 – 10,000)



Hupfeld Patent »Pl...
Excellent playi
(Estimate: US\$ 6,500 – 9,000)



Musical Picture Clock Automaton
by Xavier Tharin, c. 1870
With cylinder movement by Nicole Frères. –
(Estimate: US\$ 10,00 – 15,000 /
Euro 8,000 – 12,000)



Decamps »Lady Magician« Automaton, c. 1890
Enchanting musical automaton with Jumeau portrait head and three 'apparitions': a monkey, a girl and a clown. –
(Estimate: US\$ 50,000 – 75,000 / Euro 40,000 – 60,000)



Hupfeld »Animatic Clavist« Orchestrion, c. 1920
With moving picture and light effects. –
(Estimate: US\$ 9,000 – 12,000 /
Euro 7,000 – 9,000)



»Buddha Phonographes Artistiques«,
Original by 'Arton-Andia', c. 1924
(Estimate: € 5,000 – 7,000 /
US\$ 6,500 – 9,000)



Barrel Orchestrion by »Mazoletti, Bruxelles«, c. 1900
10 melodies, piano with 63 notes. –
(Estimate: US\$ 6,000 – 8,000 /
Euro 4,500 – 6,000)



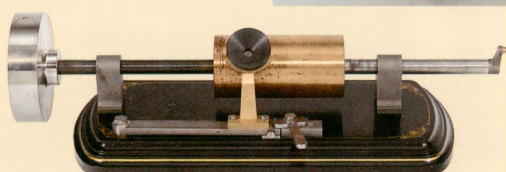
Lambert »Guitarist« Automaton, c. 1900
Elegant classic Lambert musical automaton in unusual Arabian costume. –
(Estimate: US\$ 5,000 – 8,000 /
Euro 4,000 – 6,000)



Decamps Coin-Operated Automaton »Clown with Ladder«, c. 1925
Attractive circus-themed automaton in original costume, from Decamps family collection. – (Estimate: US\$ 4,000 – 6,500 / Euro 3,000 – 5,000)



»Fratinola Model 8b« Pneumatic Orchestrion, c. 1910
Excellent playing condition. –
(Estimate: US\$ 15,000 – 20,000 / Euro 12,000 – 15,000)



Edison 'Brady'-Type Tinfoil Phonograph
Absolutely the finest hand-made replica by William C. Ptacek (1958 – 2004) from Oakes, N. Dakota, USA. – Marked:
»WCP 14« – one of only 14 ever made. – 78 cm/28 in. wide.
(Estimate: € 5,000 – 7,500 / US\$ 6,000 – 9,000)



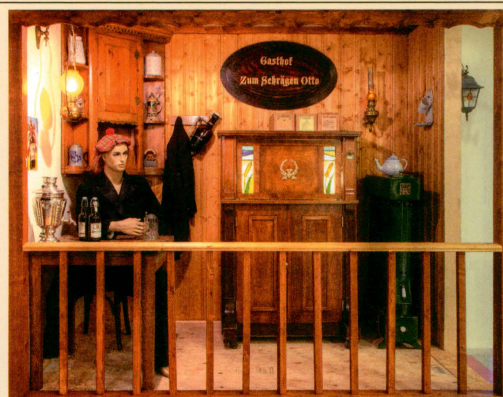
Hupfeld »Clavist Atlantic« Orchestrion, c. 1925
Excellent playing condition. –
(Estimate: US\$ 11,000 – 15,000 / Euro 9,000 – 12,000)



»Piano«, c. 1898
 Very good playing condition. –
 (Estimate: US\$ 5,000 – 7,000 / Euro 5.000 – 7.000)



»EMG Mark X« Gramophone, c. 1930
 With giant (28 in.) papier-mâché horn. –
 (Estimate: US\$ 3,000 – 5,000 / Euro 2.500 – 4.000)



Nickelodeon Pianola »Coinola Cupid«, c. 1920
 With complete 'Tavern' setting. –
 (Estimate: US\$ 13,000 – 20,000 / Euro 10.000 – 15.000)



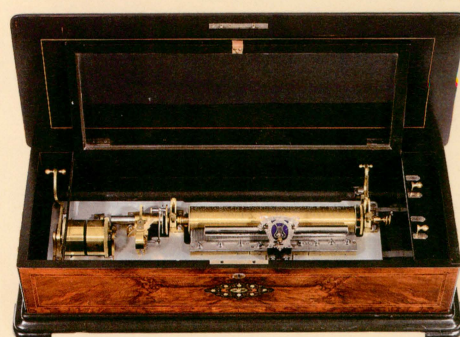
»Aeolian Player Reed Organ«, c. 1895
 (Estimate: US\$ 9,000 – 11,000 / Euro 7.000 – 9.000)



»Death of Cleopatra«, c. 1890
 Rare life-size automaton with
 'breathing' effect. –
 (Estimate: US\$ 13,000 – 19,000 / Euro 10.000 – 15.000)



Organ Musical Box by Bremond, c. 1870
 Perfect playing condition. –
 (Estimate: US\$ 4,000 – 6,500 / Euro 3.000 – 5.000)



Interchangeable Sublime Harmony Piccolo Musical Box with 6 Six-air Cylinders, c. 1880
 (Estimate: US\$ 5,000 – 8,000 / Euro 4.000 – 6.000)



Regina »Mandoline Orchestra Style 304«, c. 1900
 Very good playing condition. – (Estimate: US\$ 5,000 – 8,000 / Euro 4.000 – 6.000)



Hupfeld »Animatic S« Orchestrion with Percussion Cabinet, c. 1925
 Superb playing condition. – (Estimate: US\$ 12,000 – 18,000 / Euro 10.000 – 15.000)



**»Barack Obama«
Contemporary Musical Automaton**

Moving head and arms, rocking chair, smoking action. – **Very elegant!** –
Amusing Political Piece! –
(Estimate: US\$ 20,000 – 30,000 /
Euro 15.000 – 20.000)



»Turkish Smoker« Automaton, c. 1915

By Lambert. Original costume. –
(Estimate: US\$ 11,000 – 15,000 /
Euro 9.000 – 12.000)



Rare French Musical Automaton, c. 1860

for the Chinese market. –
(Estimate: US\$ 7,500 – 10,000 / Euro 6.000 – 8.000)



Wonderful German Advertising Automaton, c. 1940

With 5 animated figures and multiple movements. –
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Fortune Teller
SOLD
\$43,845
(est. \$35,000-40,000)

Mutoscope
"Multiscope"
SOLD
\$33,180
(est. \$4,000-8,000)

1920s Theater Lobby Candy
Vending Machine
SOLD
\$17,775
est: \$15,000-35,000)

English
Climbing
Fireman
arcade game
SOLD
\$9,480

Puss In
Boots
Fortune
Teller
SOLD
\$15,405

Caille
Hercules
Grip Test
Machine.
SOLD
\$6,636

Mills
Chicago
5 Cent Claw
Machine
SOLD
\$3,851

Rare Caille
Grip & Blow
Strength/Lung
Tester
SOLD
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Mills
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Virtuoso
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A Breath of Fresh Air



Roger Smith

Breath freshening vendors

Hardly a new phenomena, bad breath has troubled people for centuries. Records mentioning a mouthwash of wine and herbs for bad breath date to 1550 B.C. Commonly called halitosis, the word combines the Latin halitus, meaning 'breath,' with the Greek suffix osis describing a medical condition. Despite the popular myth that Listerine coined the term halitosis, the term dates from the 1870s. It wasn't until a marketing campaign in the 1920s promoting Listerine for "chronic halitosis," that the phrase became part of the popular lexicon. Social consciousness, enhanced public awareness of this "new problem," the passage of the "Volstead Act" (October 28, 1919) to enforce the eighteenth amendment, creating a need to hide intemperance, and the introduction of chlorophyll gum all drove the market for breath pellets and gum and the vendors that could conveniently sell them. This is the story of those vendors.

A not so fresh idea

By the time the major names in chewing gum, Adams and Colgan, entered the market in the 1870s, the idea of sweetening the breath was a well established idea. While many brands of chewing gum made breath sweetening claims, such as-assertions only occasionally made their way to the vending machines selling gum. Notable exceptions include the occasional Bluebird and the Gravity Vendor. (For more information about the Gravity Vendor, see The Nuts and Bolts of the Simplest Vendor, *C.O.C.A. Times* 16(2):4-7, 2011.) In an era when only children chewed gum, companies were eager to find ways to make their product more appealing to adults, encouraging sales.

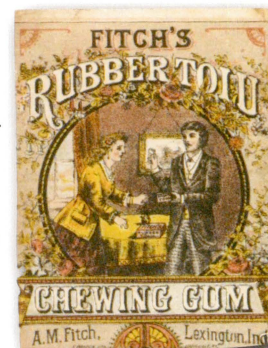
Just as today when sex sells, claims of beauty, pleasant breath or improved health drove the fortunes of many early gum companies. One such company was A.M. Fitch & Company of Indiana - A household name in the late 19th century, but almost forgotten today.



Asa M. Fitch & Company

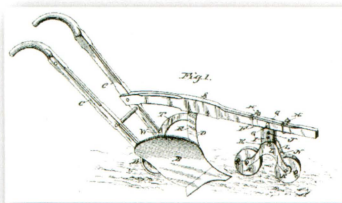
Asa M. Fitch was born on February 22, 1850, in Charlestown, Indiana. He received his education in the local public schools and began his business career with a general store in Lexington, Indiana. Family legend has it that Asa experi-

mented and mixed ingredients in a tea cup in his own kitchen to produce a gum he called "Taffy-Tolu." The similarity of this apocryphal story to the much better documented inventions of spruce gum by John Bacon Curtis in 1848, Thomas Adams development of chicle-based gum in 1878, and John Colgan's 1879 development of Taffy-Tolu in Louisville, Kentucky make this story questionable, at best. What is well documented is that Asa Fitch's Tulip and Blackstrap chewing gums were a commercial success, leading to the construction of a large plant in Lexington. The



Tulip line included Spanish Tulip, Turkish Tulip, Mint Tulip, Fruit Tulip and Pepsin Tulip.

Asa Fitch founded a manufacturing company in 1876, but Fitch's business was not restricted to, or even primarily focused upon chewing gum. Begin-



ning in the early 1880s, Asa turned his attentions to the development of an improved plow. By 1892, he had patented five improvements to steel plows and an educa-

tional children's card game.

On September 28, 1882, the boiler in the Fitch factory exploded, instantly killing the General Manager George Harding. Although many others were in the building at the time, no one, except Mr. Harding, was injured. After the explosion, Mr. Fitch moved the company to a new factory in Seymour, Indiana, founding Asa W. Fitch's Aromatory & Manufactory (also makers of Fitch's Infallible Cough & Consumption Cure), on Cincinnati Avenue at Ewing Street. The business grew to such an extent that by 1890 it was valued at \$30,000 (almost \$740,000 in today's funds).

On November 24, 1891, a fire, originating in the cold storage house of the Pabst Brewing Company of Milwaukee, swept away almost an entire block of buildings near the business center of the Seymour. Repairs to the city's water system going on at the time, made it impossible to fight the fire. The principal loss was Fitch's Tolu factory, with all machinery, stock and manufactured goods, completely lost. This was era of wildcat insurance companies and Mr. Fitch was able to collect only a small portion of the insurance carried on the plant. He filed a suit to recover damages and the suite was eventually taken to the Supreme Court of the United States. The decision, Water Works vs. Individual Liability, established a precedent for similar cases throughout the country.

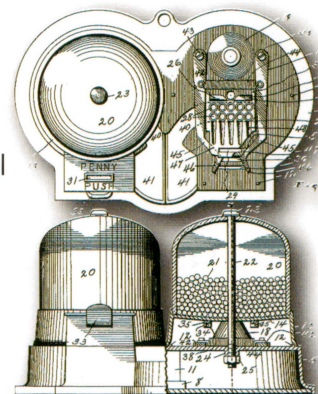
Following the fire, Asa built a new plant in Indianapolis at 66 South Pennsylvania Street. The business grew with such rapidity that he soon had to buy a newer building located at 715-17 Fort Wayne Avenue, which he remodeled into one of the best



chewing gum factories in the country. He continued operations in this factory until 1918 when he retired, selling the business to the A. M. Fitch Manufacturing Company. Asa M. Fitch died October 20, 1923, and was interred in Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis.

Before prohibition

Well before prohibition became the law of the land in 1919, breath pellet vendors could be found on the counters of general stores around the country. One early example is the Crystalets vendor, patented in 1908 by none other than Robert D. Simpson (assigned to JW Seeds and FR Ritter), the driving force behind the iconic Columbus line of gum and bulk vendors. Manufactured by the Crystal Vending Company, of Columbus, Ohio, this vendor was specifically created to vend small pellets, and designed to have 10 pockets in the vending plate to ensure the patron always received the same amount of product for his or her coin. Made in heavy cast iron, Simpson even included in the patent application a description of rubber feet to reduce damage to the store owner's counter tops.



RD Simpson's patent

Another major manufacturer of early vending machines to offer small, countertop breath pellet vendors was the H.T. Hance Manufacturing Company of Westerville, Ohio. About 1915, Hance made a small cast aluminum vendor, that was perfect for breath candies. Standing less than 9" tall, this light weight vendor took up little space on the merchant's counters but returned strong profit margins on the inexpensive candies (400%).



A common filling for these machines were Sen-Sen breath mints. Sen-Sen was developed shortly before the turn of the 20th century by Thomas B. Dunn and Co., perfume dealers in Rochester, New York. According to company lore, a plant supervisor by the name of Kerschner developed a formula for an effective and refreshing breath perfume that has persisted to today. Somewhat of an acquired taste that some liken to a mixture of perfume and bath

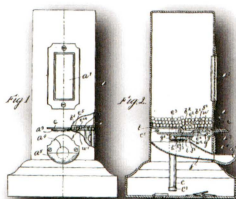
soap, the candy gained such popularity during prohibition that it eventually found its way into novels (*All the King's Men*), plays (*A Streetcar Named Desire*) and music (*The Music Man*).



R.D. Simpson wasn't content to make a pellet vendor for others, such as Crystal Vending, so he added a pellet vendor to the Columbus line. About 1909, the Columbus Vending Company introduced their Model E vendor. Thought to be salesman's samples when they were first rediscovered, the Model E and the E-Tray were both pellet vendors. The

Model E was a cast iron machine, with a somewhat boxy base, that stood no more than 10" high. Its cousin, the Model E-Tray, had sleeker lines and small tray below the delivery shoot. The model E-Tray also has its name in raised letters on the base. These vendors did not give a very big portion for the penny, but it was enough, especially given the taste of most of the products sold.

Another early pellet vender is the Federal made by the Federal Vending Company and patented January 8, 1907, by Frederick M. Furber. Though the patent drawings show a solid "globe" with a window to view the product, this cast iron machine had a straight sided glass cylinder that held barely more than a handful of tiny candies. Since these vendors typically gave only a few pellets for the money, this was plenty of capacity.



A vendor that offered "fragrant, wholesome and lasting breath perfume" was National Novelty Company's pellet vendor. This vendor has a fancy light-bulb shaped globe attached by a center rod passed through a hole in the top of the glass. As with other National machines, this vendor has style and decorative touches that make it a desirable machine. The base of this machine is eight sided and perched atop three claw feet. The coin entry slide is of sheet metal and is often found with damage. The delivery shoot is more like a tube and the opening is covered by a small flap that keeps the product from spilling out. Decorative beadings around the front plate contribute to the nifty look of this machine.

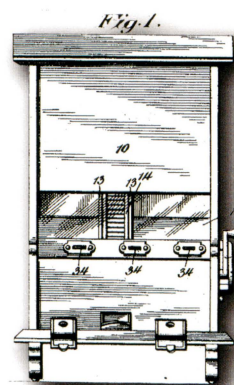


The best of both

Some vending manufacturer tried to cash in on both the chewing gum and breath mint markets. An early, provocative machine that offered both chewing gum and breath mints is the enigmatic prototype machine listed in Bill Enes' book, *Silent Salesman Too* as Mystery #46 (page 211). This machine has very heavy glass cylinders and an unusual bi-directional coin mechanism that dispenses from the two products offered based on the direction the user rotates the handle. With interior pencil marks and unused pilot holes, this was clearly a prototype machine, but to date, no hint of manufacturer or age has emerged.



A more commonly seen vendor that straddled the line between bulk and tab gum, is the Combination Vendor from the Combination Vender Co., of the small New York town of Penn Yan. Patented by Frank B. Townsend in 1904, this machine offered the patron a choice of two flavors of tab gum or two types of bulk candy or breath mints. While not specifically designed for breath mints, the option clearly indicates the need to diversify products and acknowledges a certain level of demand.



The tradition continues

A later entry into the field was the Petite Vender made by Specialty Coin Machine Builders of Chicago, Illinois. Introduced around 1934, this no nonsense machine was part of a line of small vendors made by this company. The line included gum and peanut versions. These only differed in their mechanism and delivery methods, with some delivering to the front and some to the left side of the machine. All shared the push-rod style of mechanism and a very simple coin release system. The two pound globe on these cast alumi-

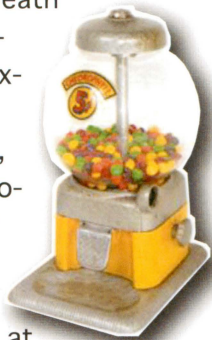


num machines was shaped somewhat like a lantern globe. Between the rising prices for candies and a more generous helping for the money, this machine gave a profit of only about \$1 per pound of product, limiting their popularity with jobbers. While profits might have been less, the machines were reasonably priced with advertising listing prices of between \$4.25 and \$6.25 per machine.

Going green

Though the green pigment chlorophyll was first isolated by Joseph Bienaimé Caventou and Pierre Joseph Pelletier in 1817, it wasn't until Clorets chlorophyll gum was introduced in 1951, by Adams and Company, that its breath freshening properties were extensively promoted. (The various health claims for chlorophyll, especially as a breath deodorant, have been around for a long time, but have been generally discredited.) William Hale, of Midland, Michigan first patented a chlorophyll chewing gum in 1941, which was assigned to The National Agrol Company of Washington, DC. Hale was considered to be the Father of Chemurgy, having coined the term out of the Greek expressions signifying "chemistry at work" – the forerunner of today's "biochemical engineering." He was a big advocate of the benefit of organic materials, notably farm and agricultural products, for industrial applications. Despite this interest, it appears that neither Hale or National Agrol commercially developed the chewing gum (they made motor fuels with ethanol), leaving that to Adams.

Despite a lack of efficacy, vendors for chlorophyll containing products blossomed, becoming an "over night sensation" with offerings from Abbey, Atlas, Auburn, Belvend, Oak, Silver King and others during the early 1950s. The wide spread production of chewing gum containing chlorophyll (by Adams, American Chewing Products, Ball-Gum, Gum Products, Leaf, Topps, and others) allowed existing gum vendors to get in on the breath freshening boom that had previously required specialized pellet vendors. For example, on July 5th, 1952, Harold Burt, President of the Silver King Corporation, announced the release of a 3-color "chlorophyll label" for its existing or new ball gum machines shipped from their Aurora, Illinois factory. One Victor advertisement from 1952 gives a glimpse at why these vendors were so popular – the projected profit was reported to be \$6.25 per pound! Despite advertising, the burgeoning number of vendors containing chlorophyll-based products, and the ever-present need for socially acceptable breath, by the mid-1960s most of the vendors had reverted to standard chewing gum formulations and most of the chlorophyll products disappeared from store shelves. One exception is Clorets, which was introduced in 1951, and is made today by Cadbury Adams and marketed worldwide. (Despite appearances, Certs does not fall into this category. Though classified as breath mints, Certs contain no mint oils and no chlorophyll. Instead, they contain a mixture of copper gluconate, hydrogenated cottonseed oil, and flavoring. It is the copper gluconate, which gives Certs its green flecks, not chlorophyll.)



Only ATLAS makes
1c CHLOROMASTER



Take advantage of the multi-million dollar advertising campaign that has sold chlorophyll to the buying public. For one penny they can buy chlorophyll gum... compared to high priced packaged items. Everybody wants chlorophyll!

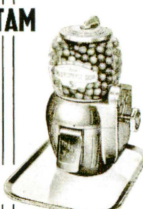
Green chlorophyll gum stands out in the polished aluminum base with chrome-plated tray.

Chlorophyll ball gum, 210 to the pound, means PROFIT for you... just watch the money pile up! A national to bars, restaurants, any location. And you have the assurance of Atlas backing... over 25 years' experience in the vending machine business.

Say ATLAS and be sure!
Salesmen and Distributors—Write NOW

ATLAS
MANUFACTURING AND SALES CORP.
1211 1221 THURSTON, DEPT. CLEVELAND 11, OHIO

5¢ Chlorophyll Tray Vendor...
ATLAS BANTAM



It Vends chlorophyll ball gum or chlorophyll chicle tabs, that new magic green stuff!... green as a new dollar bill... with just about as much customer appeal! The Bantam is a gleaming, chrome-like vendor that will not only catch the customer's eye, but will make a hit with the location owner when you approach him on placement. With tray it can be sold along bar tops... placed next to a cash register. It gets the odd coin. It's small enough to fit into any nook where there's traffic!... and for profits, you can't beat the Bantam.

It Vends two chlorophyll balls of gum or four chlorophyll chicle tabs for a nickel! Just figure that up!... and when you do, you'll know you're sure with Atlas' Bantam!

Also vends almonds, pistachios and nuts

Salesmen and Distributors—Write NOW

ATLAS
MANUFACTURING AND SALES CORP.
1211 1221 THURSTON, DEPT. CLEVELAND 11, OHIO

GO
the bright green light for new sales

ACORN 5¢ "Chlorophyll" Vendor



Yours is the right time for your sales! With the new ACORN Chlorophyll Vendor, you can attract a new type of customer. The ACORN Vendor is a new type of vending machine that will attract a new type of customer. The ACORN Vendor is a new type of vending machine that will attract a new type of customer.

Features the new **GREEN FLASH** sign... **NEW! Hammered Silver Finish**

ATLAS MANUFACTURING CO., INC.
11411 Kingsbridge Ave. Corner City East

Be they breath pellets or chlorophyll gum vendors, vending collectors can all enjoy these "breathtaking machines."

Your Future Is G-R-E-E-N
Greenbacks for some. Green eyes for others
The current selling sensation is
CHLOROPHYLL BALL GUM



You can buy this brand-new all-plastic penny vendor filled with about 2000 balls of chlorophyll gum for only \$10.00 f.o.b. Cranston, R.I.

You can SELL it for \$15.00 (average sales running 10 a day per man).

You can OPERATE a route.
Build a permanent income jobbing refills or by Send for your sample deal today

AUBURN DISTRIBUTING COMPANY
DEPT. BB, 270 DORIC AVENUE
CRANSTON 10, R. I.

Caille's CAST IRON Trophy's

by Johnny Duckworth

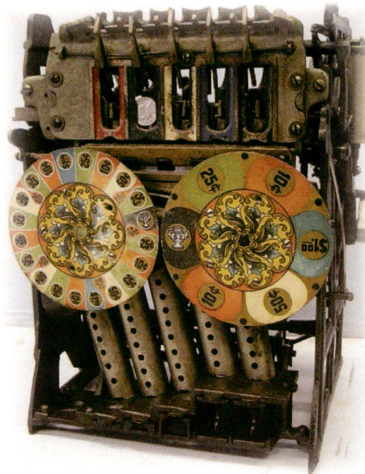
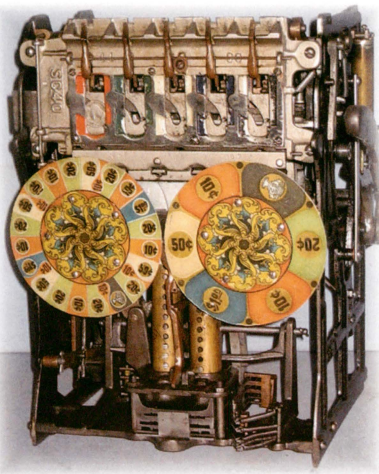
At the beginning of the twentieth century, cast iron was one of the most dominating materials used in the production of coin operated machines. These early gambling machines were typically dressed in wood with cast iron trimmings and some of the counter machines were nothing but cast iron. This transformation to an all iron case would result in some of the most beautiful examples of Victorian art ever produced in slot machines. The castings would then be finished in either nickel or oxidized copper to accentuate their beauty. These works of art would also require two strong men and a boy to carry and if accidentally dropped, they could be very unforgiving. However, this method of producing machines would be cut short since aluminum was much lighter and cheaper and became widely used in the early 20's.



This machine has two color wheels and is very simple to play, just place a coin in the upper 5 way coin slot representing the color desired, pull down on the handle, the wheels spin in opposite directions and you wait to see if the color played will match up in the center. Most color wheel machines at that time were a single wheel in which you would need the color played to land

I will start off with the Caille Silver Cup, which sold for \$75 new and had to brighten up any run down saloon counter with its exquisite beauty. The name Silver Cup is boldly spelled across the bottom of the front casting and the profile of a beautiful young lady with a flowing dress adorns each side and back. She is holding above her head, a trophy with the initials CB cast into it, representing Caille Brothers. This symbol is widely known to represent a 1st place trophy and that is no doubt where the Caille Brothers wanted to be.


at the top under an arrow, same as a floor machine. In theory, this machine is the same except you want the two wheels to line up and match the color you played. You will notice on this machine that the left wheel has so many colors per inch that you feel as if the odds are in your favor. However, when looking at the wheel on the right, it shows just how unfair the machine could be since the large color spaces favored the house. It's also one of those machines you can place a bet on every color only to lose your money and not hit a winner.



I have observed two different mechanisms Caille produced for the silver cup. The first model had individual slides across the front of the mechanism, where as the second model only had one set of slides with two pay tubes to make all the payouts. This payout system also resembles the same one used on the later Caille Aristocrat. Somewhere after serial #340 this machine must have been a little loose on the 25 cent green payout as it was changed to 20 cents where it remained until the end of production. Another interesting change was the pay cup which started out in the center only to be moved to the right side sometime after serial #640 but then to return sometime after #881. This may have been a bad decision at the factory since the coins had to make a hard right turn out of the pay slides to enter into the pay cup below. I even had one collector who has the version with the pay cup on the right tell me he has had the coins jamb up in that area before. They were only produced in a nickel play version and the machines I have been able to track down bear the serial numbers 34, 129, 340, 593, 614, 639, 640, 690, 712, 746, 752, 881 & 4892.

THE ORIGINAL FIVE SLOT, DOUBLE DIAL CHECK-PAYING MACHINE

CAILLE'S SILVER CUP
CAILLE'S LATEST SILVER CUP



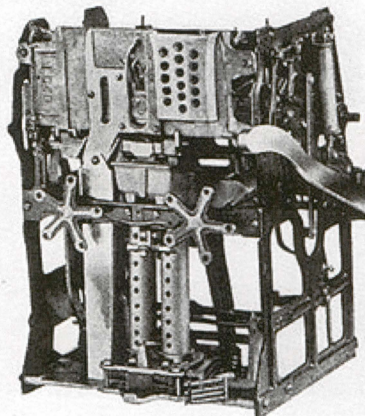
Caille's Silver Cup
Size 19 x 14 x 18 inches. Wt. 72 lbs.
Telegraph Code Word—Cup
Telegraph Code Word (Side Vender)—Copper

Many operators prefer this machine on account of it having five coin slots and also because it pays a reward of \$2.00.

The **Silver Cup** is very popular with the general public because it is a most liberal machine, and is a favorite with the owner or operator because it requires practically no attention.

Every **Silver Cup** is equipped with the five-way coin top which cannot be beaten. If a bent or mutilated coin is forced into machine the pay-out becomes locked, thus giving out no rewards until bad coin is removed. All coins played show through detector until next operation, thereby allowing no chance for argument.

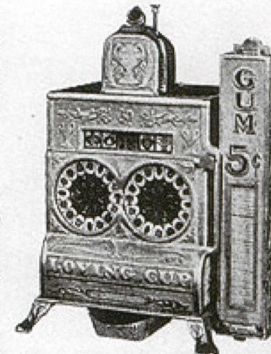
By means of a clever attachment on the Silver Cup you can make instant change from check payer to money machine. This is done by simply moving a lever and does not require the removal of works from case.



Mechanism in Caille's Silver Cup

CAILLE'S LATEST CUT-OUT

Shown in the accompanying cut is unquestionably the most accurate of any ever placed on a coin machine and is the result of long experimenting. There are only two tubes holding about nine dollars in nickels beneath which work the pay-out slides. By means of a little "Boopier" which is placed at the top of these tubes and which changes its position at every operation of machine, all checks are equally divided, part going to each tube. This system positively prevents the cut-out from becoming empty of checks as sometimes occurs in cut-outs having three or more tubes. A glance at the illustration will convince you how simple this arrangement is and that there is nothing to get out of order. Checks used in the Silver Cup are a trifle larger than a nickel, and when played go direct to the cut-out. All surplus checks are thrown back away from tubes by a little kicker, thus preventing any clogging. All nickels go to money-box.



Caille's Loving Cup Vender
Telegraph Code Word—Loving
Telegraph Code Word (Side Vender)—Loving

MONEY CUP. Placed at right side of front to prevent players manipulating through cut-out slides. A very important feature.

Clock Work Governor is used exclusively on the Silver Cup and is considered the best on the market.

PENNY COMPARTMENT

This attachment prevents pennies from dropping through into the machine, and when filled the whole pocket may be removed quickly and emptied. An ingenious device automatically "kicks" out the pennies from the coin chute and deposits them in this pocket, which is shown in cut of mechanism.

CAILLE'S LOVING CUP VENDER

Made similar to the Silver Cup described above with the following exceptions:

- Improved separating Coin Top rejects all Bell Checks or washers, returning them to the money cup in front. Also throws out second check or coin, provided two are played.
- Rewards range in value from 10 cents to \$1.00.
- Each dial divided into sixteen spaces.
- Made also without Gum Vender.

WHERE THE MONEY IS SAVED

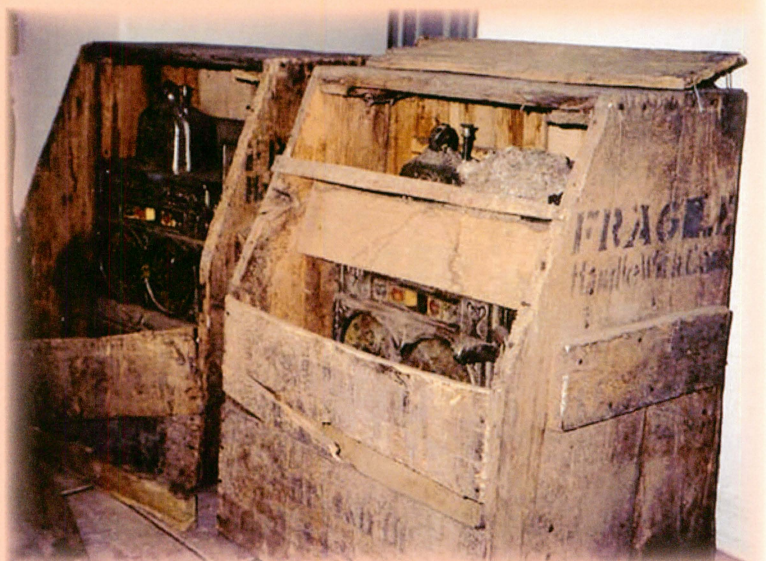
Every time a Bell check or washer is played into your machine it represents a dead loss to you, not only to the amount of cents for the checks played, but also for the rewards given out, which might be as high as \$1.00. The improved top offsets his loss by rejecting everything but nickels and the checks that rightfully belong to the machine.



The other cast iron beauty and the rarer of the two is called the Caille Loving Cup. This machine has the same cabinet design as the Silver Cup with the lady holding up a trophy except for the name change on the front and a single coin head on the top. This machine only required a single coin entry since the payoff was simply made by matching up two of the same fruit symbols in the center to win. Just like a 3 reel slot except you are matching 2 symbols instead of three. Different fruit had different payouts, just like any other slot with the highest pay being 20 for matching 2 Silver Cup symbols. This machine also had a 4 way payout instead of the 5 way on the Silver Cup. The fruit symbols used on the Loving Cup are identical to those used on Caille's tin litho fruit strips for the operator bell. The 3 loving cups that have surfaced over the years are serial numbers 153, 156, & 161 and all 3 have gum venders.

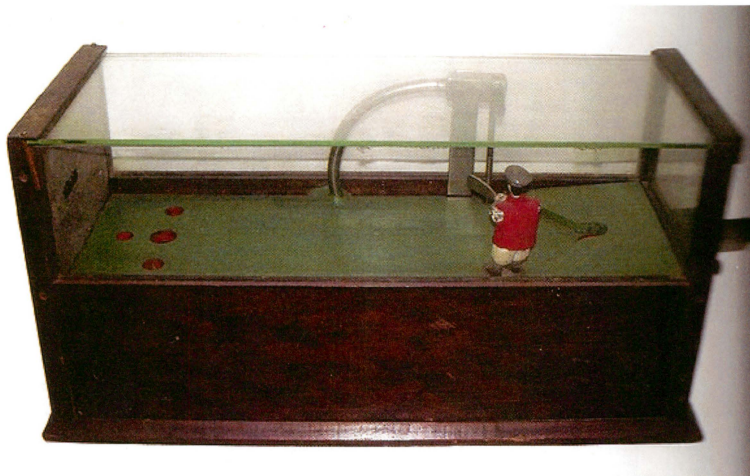
I am only aware of the three Loving Cup's that have turned up over the years and two of them were discovered in Albuquerque, New Mexico. An old bar owner in Raton purchased them new and had used them very little if at

all. They were still in their original wooden crates when found. They were also full of original Silver Cup tokens and the gum venders contained gum from the True Blue Gum Company in Lansing, Michigan. That had to be one of the top five most amazing coin op finds I have ever heard of and a great motivation to keep all of us searching for these amazing machines. I want to thank everyone who shared their serial number information with me as it always helps to learn a little more history on these incredible machines. If you have any serial numbers or information on these early machines you would want to share please contact me at Johnny@kccoinop.com. Thanks.



BLACKBURN MANUFACTURER BASEBALL

by Bill Howard



This very rare baseball-cricket counter top coin-operated machine was manufactured by the Blackburn Mfg. Co. of San Antonio, Texas. Because of the machine's look and its "cricket aspect", I believe it was introduced in the late 1910's or early 1920's, although no ads for it have appeared. Blackburn Mfg. Baseball is featured on page 152 in the baseball section of my book, Every Picture Tells a Story. It is one of two known examples, the other having turned up recently in the hands of collector and friend Jim Grimwade.

My example also appears on page 149 of Dr. Mark Cooper's Baseball Games. At the time his book was published, my example was owned by collector Mike Brown of Philadelphia, PA. Because so little was known of this machine prior to my purchase, Mike made an inquiry to the late historian, Dick Beuschel, through his column in Coin-Op Classics. In the May/June, 1995, issue Dick responded by reporting that the machine was never advertised and did not appear in any known trade journals. Although Dick suggested that the Blackburn Mfg. Baseball was probably made in 1929 or 1930, I disagree for the following reasons. First, the player in my machine looks original and bears no number one on his jersey, a tell tale sign among baseball historians that suggests an earlier date than 1920. In addition, the "cricket aspect" of this game also suggests an earlier time frame, when the game of baseball was still evolving from our English ancestors. Also, the vertical ball drop feature is not like other sports games of the era, and was contained within a crude, dull wooden cabinet not common to those sports machines of the late 1920's or early 1930's. In fact, the only other baseball type ma-

chine featuring a vertical ball drop was the Peo Play Ball advertised in the January, 1928, issue of Automatic Age on page 28. To my knowledge, no Peo Play Ball has ever surfaced. But the ad is very relevant as to the time issue as it offered a "spiffed up" machine that copied an earlier vertical coin-op concept, complete with a winning "bullseye" target on the back wall, an obvious attempt to copy the earlier and cruder Blackburn Mfg. Baseball.

In spite of what little we know about this machine, its manufacturer is certain because its name is cast into the marquee that sticks out from the outside of the otherwise wooden cabinet as you face the back of the player. As I have stated, the internal mechanism that drops the steel balls is quite unique. The balls are routed laterally into a tube and then released vertically into the field of play to allow the player to swat at them individually with a wide, flat bat similar in style to one used to play cricket. The object is to hit the balls so that they drop into one of the four holes in front of the wall. As winning and losing balls alike are recycled underneath the machine for the next play, offering no verification of winning hits before the insert of another penny brought up the three balls again for another play. This machine was for skill or arcade play, and not for gambling. As in the game of baseball, the timing necessary to just hit the ball requires a lot of skill.

In conclusion, I consider this to be an early counter top baseball arcade-skill game that is fun to play as well as a challenge to master. I feel lucky to own this wonderful and unusual machine. Thank you, Mike Brown.

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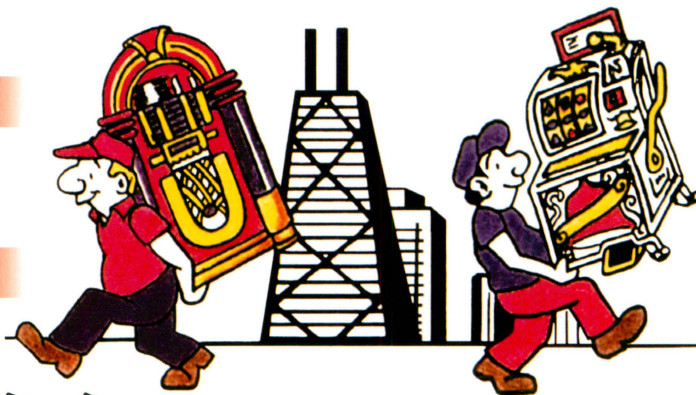
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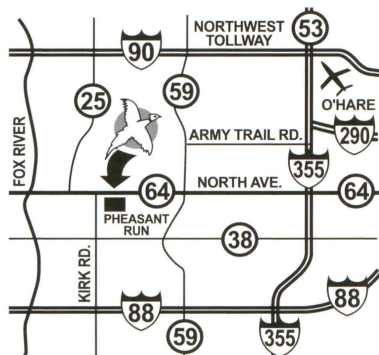
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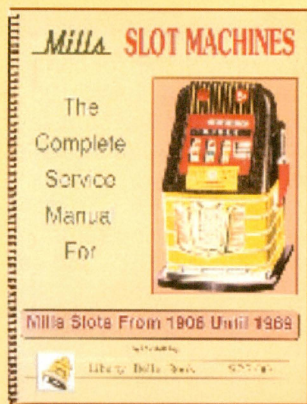
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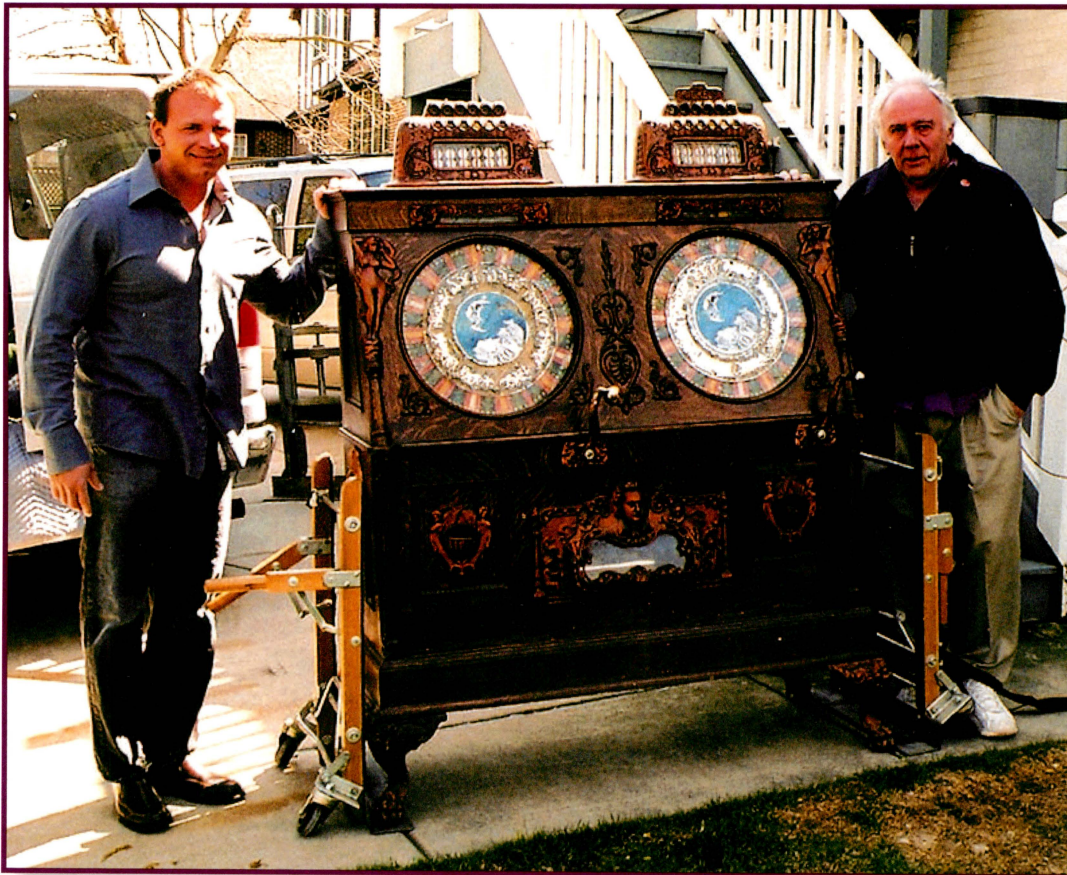


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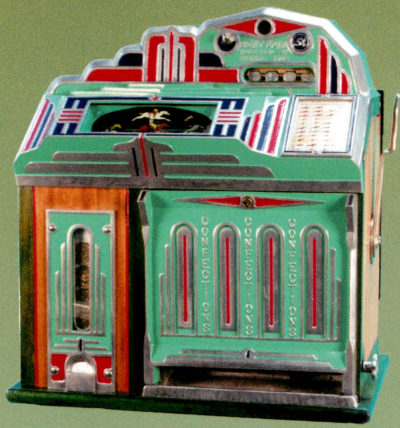
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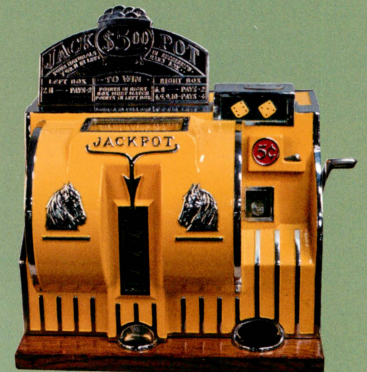
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